

GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA MASONS

One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Annual Communication Soon to Open Here.

WANY CRAFTSMEN TO ATTEND

Business Calendar Being Short Grand Working Committee Will Be the Attraction.

The 129th grand annual communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia will begin in this city within the next two weeks.

The sessions of the Grand Lodge will be held in the Masonic Temple, on Broad Street, beginning at 7:30 P. M., Tuesday, February 12th. The meetings will last three days, and will be attended by the members of the craft from all parts of the grand jurisdiction of Virginia and probably by eminent visiting Masons from other jurisdictions. The meetings will call together not fewer than 600 Virginia Masons, and among them will be many of the leading men of the State in all professions and lines of business. This session of the Grand Lodge is not expected to be of more than the usual importance.

So far as any outsiders have been able to learn there are no matters of general interest to be brought before the body, and it is expected that the attention of the body will be confined this year to merely routine business. This is especially pleasing to a limited amount of business in the grand lodge-room proper the craftsmen have more time to devote to "work."

The Grand Working Committee, the highest authority in the Masonic galaxy—the men who are the custodians of the "unwritten law"—will sit daily during the session of the lodge, and in the absence of a rush of business, excepting otherwise, they will have ample time to "re-empower" the work. Many Masons come to the Grand Lodge every year to attend the "work meetings" of the Grand Working Committee, and they will be pleased to know that the meetings of that committee will this year be very numerous—in fact, almost continuous for three or more days and nights.

There will probably be no changes in the list of officers of the Grand Lodge this year, it being always understood that the officers serve two years, hence the election on this grand assembling will be a mere matter of legal form. The officers are:

Grand Master, Most Worshipful Kossuth Kemper, of Alexandria; Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful S. J. Quinn, of Fredericksburg; Grand Senior Warden, Right Worshipful Joseph W. Eggleston, of Richmond; Grand Junior Warden, Right Worshipful Joseph W. Eggleston, of Richmond; Grand Treasurer, Right Worshipful Fred J. Quinn, of Richmond; Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful G. W. Carrington, of Richmond; Grand Senior Deacon, Right Worshipful William B. McChesney, of Staunton; Grand Junior Deacon, Right Worshipful W. L. Andrews, of Roanoke.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF YOUNG GIRL

Body Found in Forest Building. Man Has Been Arrested.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 3.—The body of Miss Frances Martin, eighteen years old, was found in a room in the Forest building today. Whether she was murdered has not been determined. A young man named John Jones, with whom Miss Martin attended the Lyric Theatre last night, has been arrested and is being held to await the action of the coroner. There are indications that the girl died late last night or early today in the Lyric Theatre building and that her body was then taken across a little bridge which connects the theatre and Forest building. There were no marks on the body indicative of violence. Coroner W. H. Sipe and District Attorney Underwood, who investigated the case, say it is a mystery.

BLOODY TRAGEDY CLAIMS TWO VICTIMS

Woman Was Shot and Man Had His Throat Cut.

TOLAR, TEX., February 3.—A tragedy enacted at the home of Sam Bowers, two miles from here, early today has claimed one victim and may eventually claim two others. Physicians and officers summoned to the scene found the wife of Bowers, who is about twenty-five years of age, dead from a bullet wound in the left breast; his mother unconscious from a blow on the head from a gunstick, and Bowers in a dying condition with his throat cut with a razor. The doctors say that the woman may die and that Bowers will not live.

HALF MILLION OF REFUGEES CALLING VAINLY FOR FOOD

Famine in China Growing Worse and Relief Thus Far Obtained From Outside Has Been of Little Effect—Letters Received Here.

Letters received at the office of the Central Presbyterian Saturday from points in North China tend to confirm the reports of famine through a large section of the country. The suffering is said to be of a nature that has not been seen in the past two seasons. The reports are reported to be starving. The missionaries, who have facilities in the country, are endeavoring to forward any relief that may be possible. A letter was also received from Rev. D. P. Junkin, of China, who has been in the country for some time. He writes that the famine is now camped in the north and that the people are now camped in the north. The missionaries are now camped in the north and the people are now camped in the north.

CHIEF OF FIRE DEPARTMENT DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS



V. G. PULLER, Chief of Richmond Fire Department, who died yesterday, after long sickness.

(Continued from First Page.)

residence in Richmond had been active in politics and his devotion to Democratic principles never knew any "variance or shadow of turning." He was a man in every sense of that great word, and he enjoyed the love and confidence of his fellow-citizens to the highest degree. "Captain Puller was a citizen of clean life, and was for many years, and up to the time of his death, an officer in the Seventh Street Christian Church. Personally, he was a quiet, conservative, unassuming gentleman, and his very presence in any gathering always commanded the greatest deference and respect.

He was greatly beloved by his men, for he never knew how to be otherwise than fair and just to them. While a strict disciplinarian, and living in his official capacity always up to the letter of the law, Captain Puller was yet kind-hearted, and always disposed to show the utmost consideration for his men. Captain Puller is survived by three daughters and three sons. They are: Mrs. R. Tyler English, Mrs. Joseph W. Hundley and Miss Irma Puller; Mr. W. G. Puller, Jr., Tribble M. Puller and E. Powel Puller. His aged mother, Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Puller, now eighty-three years old, and two brothers, Messrs. Thomas R. and Oswald Puller, also survive their son and brother.

REX IMPROVING IN HOSPITAL HERE

Many People Visiting Bostock's On Sunday Afternoon—Open But No Performances.

Felix Rex, Mme. Morelli's husband, who was operated on in the Retreat for the Sick Saturday afternoon, is reported today as being much better. Rex, while defending his head and face from the onslaught of a savage lion, in a mixed group he was exhibiting, was badly torn on his right arm and hand. The fangs of the savage beast were driven into Rex's wrist splintering the bones where the hand joined the arm. Several splinters of dead bone were removed by Drs. Garlin, Peyser and West, and unless blood-poisoning sets in, Rex will be out soon. Every day sees larger crowds attending Bostock's Wild Animal Arena at Idlewood. Yesterday afternoon several thousand people visited the arena building for the sole purpose of seeing the animals in their dens, and receiving their usual afternoon meal.

Ever since Consul the Second began his education here he has been eating three meals a day, and each of these seated at a table and attended by his trainer, and a waiter. There was no exception to this rule yesterday, and a large crowd of men, women and children, including many of the most prominent professional and business men of Richmond, as well as many other workers who cannot find the time to attend any of the afternoon or evening performances.

Of course no performances of any kind are given on Sunday in the Bostock Arena. This is one of Mr. Bostock's rules that trainers, keepers and animals shall have this one day of rest in each week. Therefore Sunday always finds the arena building in idlewood deserted by all belonging to the shows except the few keepers and watchmen whose turn it is to remain on duty to look after and feed the animals.

On account of being ill all day the animals are given about one-third more food each Sunday afternoon, as the additional allowance serves to keep them more quiet, make them rest better and consequently keep them in better health and condition.

Right at early Monday morning training starts in the steel arena, and from that time until the close of Saturday night's exhibitions, trainers, attendants, keepers and animals are almost constantly on the go, either learning new acts or exhibiting those already learned.

COMPANY H TO BE REORGANIZED

Meeting To-Morrow Night at Armory—Competitive Shoot On Thursday.

Notwithstanding the order for the disbandment of Company H, of the Seventieth Regiment, there is said to be excellent prospect for a reorganization of the command. A meeting of the members of the old company has been called for to-morrow night, when some forty odd are expected to be present and effect a reorganization. A gentleman well equipped for command and experienced in matters military will be urged for captain, and no effort will be spared to place the command on a better basis than ever before. Its personnel will be improved by the reorganization, it is said.

The rivalry for marksmanship honors among the Seventieth Regiment companies has resulted in a challenge for a competitive shoot by picked squads from Company A and from the headquarters team. Company A, fresh from its triumph over the Petersburg Grays, is out for the honors, and Captain Gray, himself a fine shot, will put his crack team up against Major Bossieux and his headquarters sharpshooters. Major Bossieux is a crack marksman to be considered, and he and his associates will be able to maintain their prestige with the army rifle. The contest between Company A and the headquarters team is set for Thursday night, and will attract a big crowd to the armory.

A rifle match between teams from the Seventieth Regiment companies and the Blues Battalion is one which will excite considerable rivalry if it is arranged. Both battalions have some fine marksmen, and a match between them would show both at their best.

Despite the fact that the two companies of the Blues were recently burned out of their armory and lost their uniforms, the command seems to prosper in adversity. Besides being about ready to order new uniforms and equipment, there is a fine prospect of some action looking to the shows except the few keepers and watchmen whose turn it is to remain on duty to look after and feed the animals.

Company C, of the Regiment, will meet to-night for regular drill, and a large attendance is assured. Interest in the company is at a high pitch, and the boys of C are enthusiastic over the prospect for the exhibition and for rifle range. This command is in the hunt for the rifle team honors. Captain Wallace is still away on furlough, but the interest of the men is undiminished.

The Howitzers will hold their regular drill on Tuesday night at their splendidly appointed armory. The artillerymen are enthusiastic over their new gymnasium and swimming pool, and have just inaugurated a campaign to recruit the battery to the limit and provide a waiting list.

THREE UNIFORMS. Lawmakers Will Be Well-Supplied This Year.

The lawmakers were last year the best-dressed team in the Virginia State League and it will be so again with them this season, when they will have three uniforms, two old ones they had last year and one new one. The new uniforms will be used for the local games and the others for road uniforms. In addition to the new uniforms they will have sweaters to match. The color of the new uniform has not yet been decided upon.

Contracts are coming in daily, and it is expected that they will all soon be in. "Delcote" still has his contract, but has not yet signed it. He expects to affix his signature to the contract this week and hand it in to Manager Shaffer. It was stated yesterday that an effort is being made to sign "Duke" Hooker, a Richmond boy who was with Vicksburg, Miss. in the Cotton States League last season. Hooker is a good player and would be a fine addition to the team.

IMPORTANT WEEK IN CITY AFFAIRS

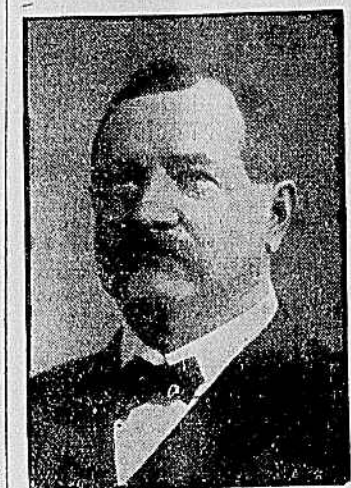
Number of Interesting Meetings Scheduled and Much Work Will Be Done.

COUNCIL SESSION TO-NIGHT

Fire Commissioners Will Hear Charges Against Two Members of Department.

The present week, being the first full one of the month, will be a busy one in municipal circles, there being meetings of the Common Council, the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Board of Police Commissioners and many meetings of Council committees. Monday and Tuesday are the heaviest days. The regular meeting of the Common Council will be held at 8 o'clock this evening, and will be prolonged, especially if the members undertake to complete the scheduled business. The veto message of Mayor McCallister on the ordinance to permit the vestry of St. John's Church to erect a parish-house and memorial chapel on the cemetery grounds will be read to the body, and some action thereon will be had. The Mayor is earnestly opposed to the action proposed and will doubtless state his objections with his characteristic vigor and clearness.

Salary Increases. Various ordinances and resolutions from the several committees will be reported and acted upon at the meeting. Perhaps those of greatest interest being the action of the Finance Committee on the petition of various city employees for increased remuneration. The Ordinance Committee has passed upon these and the Finance Committee also said to have recommended some action thereon. The recommendation of an increase in the salaries of the Police Department is one of especial interest to the force. As recommended by the Ordinance Committee, the chief and the clerk to the board were



CAPTAIN J. W. WILLIAMS, Sheriff of State Corporation Commission, who will resign to run for House of Delegates.

not included, but it is said the Finance Committee has included both. The Ordinance Committee assigned no reason for any discrimination. The clerk to the board is a stenographer, and is on duty all day at headquarters, being required to act as emergency patrolman when the need arises. The chief has restored harmony in the department, and it is now in a fine state of efficiency. It is expected that the preliminary action looking to the contemplated extension of Monument Avenue to the Reservoir Road will be begun to-night. Other legislation of interest will be inaugurated, and altogether the session promises to be an interesting one.

The Board of Fire Commissioners will meet to-night also, and it is expected that some action will be taken with reference to the charges against two members of the department. Some appropriate action relative to the death of Chief W. G. Puller is also to be taken.

Other Meetings. The Committees on Cemeteries and on Police, Elections and Schools are also scheduled to meet this evening, but may be called off or deferred owing to the Council meeting.

To-morrow night the Committee on Finance will hear representatives of the Street Cleaning Department, the Street Department and the Fire Department in the presentation of the fiscal needs of these several branches of the government.

The Committee on James River Improvement and on Markets will also meet Tuesday. The Committee on James River Improvement promises to take action on the project to raise Lester Street and the level of the river front.

The Board of Police Commissioners will meet Wednesday and hear the report of the subcommittee on the needs of the department and will dispose of the usual monthly budget. For the first time in several months there are no vacancies to fill. The Council Committee on Local Assessments will also meet on Wednesday.

The meeting of the Grounds and Buildings Committee is the last one of the week on the schedule, and that is set for Thursday at 5 P. M.

LIST OF SALOONS STEADILY GROWS

Richmond Hotel One of Places Reported Last Night Under Unlawful Law.

The list of saloons being reported for non-compliance with the Unlawful Law is growing steadily. The Richmond Hotel, of which Mr. Sam. Atkinson is manager, was reported last night by Officer Shoemaker.

The entrance from Ninth Street does not give any view of the interior of the place, which may be seen only through the entrance leading from the lobby, inside the hotel. Manager Atkinson claimed that the hotel does not cater to people from the street and that its main business is with the hotel, the guests of which may enter the bar from the inside.

YOUTHFUL BOWLERS WHO ARE PLAYING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP



Masters Frank Kain and Raymond Whitman are the youngest bowlers in the city, and it is probably the first time in the history of this fascinating game that two such youthful competitors have ever been pitted against each other. The fathers of both boys are prominent bowlers themselves, and they are training up their sons to follow in the paternal footsteps. Frank and Raymond have already competed in one series, which was won by Frank. The next series between them is to be rolled Friday night and it is to be completed on the following Friday night, when the winner will be declared the amateur bowling champion. The games between these two youngsters are creating unusual enthusiasm, and the older professional bowlers are watching the contests between them with interested eyes.

GOLD WAVE SENT PEOPLE INDOORS WILL MAKE FIGHT ON COUNCIL FLOOR

Franklin Street Parade of Early Afternoon Soon Melted Away. Drop in Temperature.

Richmond had as fine and bright a Sunday yesterday as does not often come in February. The churches were filled with people, and the Franklin Street parade almost rivaled an Easter Sunday show. In the afternoon the sky became overcast, and the temperature made a perceptible drop, and by dark the city was again wrapped in great coats and shivers, and the month of February had come into its own again, with a prospect of snow for to-day.

Rev. A. B. Sharpe, superintendent of the Methodist Institution, reported a busy week, having on Saturday night eighteen more boarders than the place could accommodate, men sleeping on benches in the halls.

At the Associated Charities headquarters relief was going on smoothly, about the average number of applications being received. Both institutions are in need of clothing for distribution among the poor of the city, and urge all charitably inclined people to let them have the disposal of their cast-off garments, especially shoes.

As the winter progresses the need for relief will increase, as poorer families will be drawn to the end of their resources and have to seek assistance to carry them through, if the cold season is protracted.

Interesting Events This Week.

The time of both the United States Senate and the House this week will be taken up with the consideration of appropriation bills.

In the Senate the Indian bill is under consideration, while the House has the River and Harbor bill under way. Several days will be required to dispose of each of these measures, and when they shall have been finally voted upon the Senate will take up the Army bill and the House the Naval bill.

These four measures will practically monopolize the time of the two bodies, as there are many points in each of them over which there is wide difference of opinion. It is expected that the Senate amendments to the Indian Territory matters will develop debate concerning the administration of business in that Territory, while the question of big battleships will be fought out in the House in connection with the consideration of the Naval bill.

Proceedings in the trial of Harry K. Thaw have reached the stage where the actual taking of testimony will begin Monday unless more of the jurors already selected are excused when the court resumes its sessions.

The taking of testimony concerning the conduct of the negro troops at Brownsville, Texas, which resulted in their dismissal by the President, is expected to begin before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs in Washington on Monday.

A conference between President Roosevelt, Secretary Root and the San Francisco Board of Education, which Mayor Schmitz will attend, is expected to be held in Washington on Friday or Saturday to discuss the Japanese school question.

It is understood that the President will endeavor to induce the Board of Education to rescind its action excluding the Japanese children from the schools.

The question whether or not the New York Produce Exchange shall increase its trading, so as to include nearly all the stocks dealt with in the curb market, is expected to be taken up by the exchange at a meeting of the exchange on Thursday.

James Bryce, British ambassador to the United States, is to be given a dinner by the Mergers of London at the Savoy on February 6th. The American ambassador, Whitelaw Reid, probably will propose the health of Mr. Bryce, and the speeches of the two ambassadors are expected to round the keynote of the friendly relations existing between their respective countries.

ACTOR DRUGGED AND ROBBED HERE

Negro Performer Found Himself in Alley with All His Possessions Gone.

EVILS OF THE DOPE HABIT

Many "Joints" in Operation, But Police Are Working to Wipe Them Out.

Clarence Marsh, a colored actor of some reputation on the stage in America, arrived here early Saturday en route for Washington to join his company, stopped in this city for a few hours, as he intended to "see the sights." Marsh was here "loaded with the goods," but he started out in the wrong direction, and that is why he did not appear in Washington Saturday night with his company in the role of "A Drowsy and Disinterested Com." The company is playing "The Emancipation Day."

Marsh visited a colored sporting joint in Jackson Street, where he had a good time, and pulled off a musical program. He departed Saturday night, but he took only three drinks, and the last thing he heard was some one singing and saying: "You Will Miss Me When I Am Gone." After this all was blank to him until he awoke in a rear alley and found a doctor slapping him in the face.

The man had been given a large quantity of "dope" in his drinks, and robbed of his possessions. The doctor said it was morphine and cocaine the man had drunk. The stuff sent the colored actor up against a critical situation in that he will long remember. He was turned over to some prominent colored men here, who investigated the affair, found where he got the dope and forced the proprietor of the house to return the lost money, which was a scuff taken off the actor.

Marsh left for Washington Saturday night, but not in time to appear as the "Drowsy Com," as he had been detained too long on this "engagement" in Richmond.

Many Dope Fiends.

The evils of cocaine and morphine are just bringing about a critical situation here among the lower and middle classes of colored people, many of whom are already slaves to the deadly "dope." The hot-bed of the evil has always been in the Tenderloin district uptown, and its use has been confined mostly to the lower classes of negroes, but the habit has now spread to many parts of old Jackson Ward, where it is being freely used with serious results. It has increased both the crime and the death rate here among the negroes.

There have been more drunkenness and sickness, rash and irresponsible acts, brought on by these drugs among colored help, more recently than at any time previous. Drunks, it is said, are being touched up with it, and it is being inserted into cigarettes in nearly all of the colored objectionable houses and sporting resorts, and a few bar-rooms also.

Police at Work.

The police authorities are determined to wipe out the "dope" joints and to stop the peddlers' business. It is largely through the pernicious peddlers of cocaine and morphine and other like deadly drugs that the evil habit has grown to such an extent among the negro population of the city.

But the police have made great inroads into this pernicious peddling, and many of the peddlers have been caught. When haled before Justice Crutchfield he gives them always the full extent of the law, and this through him and the energetic police, the "dope" joints and peddlers are gradually being run out of business.

Gambling Den Raided.

Chris Henry (colored), with nine other negroes, was captured Saturday night in a gambling den, where the peddlers' business was being carried on. The den was in a shooting craps, the popular pastime among the leisurely class of negroes. Chris was hauled before Justice Crutchfield, and was released on the charge of being disorderly on a street, car Jackson overheard him say that he was going to give the police the slip, and he gave the man he had hauled up to the officers last night.

Charged with Stealing Paper. While walking up Franklin Street Policeman "Joemaker" espied Moses Ruth, a young white boy, go up the porch leading into the second floor of East Franklin Street, and take there from a copy of The Times-Dispatch. As he came down the steps the officer saw him, and nabbed him. He was taken to the First Police Station.

PRINCESS ALICE ILL.

Temperature High. But Physicians Say Is Not Dangerously Ill. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, wife of Representative Longworth, of Ohio, is ill at her home, this city, with what is stated at her home to be a slight attack of grip. The Princess, who is a woman of some time at the Longworth home to-day, and were very much concerned about their daughter's health when they were informed by the attending physician that her temperature had gone up to 102. The Princess cold while attending the White House reception last Thursday night, and has been confined to her bed for three days.

BOARD TO RUN BIG WAGON FOR HENRICO SCHOOL CHILDREN

Pupils Will Be Hauled Distance of Five Miles and Then Taken Home Again—High School Building For Tuckahoe District.

The school board of Fairfax District, Henrico county, has directed the closing of Chickahominy school and the enlargement of the school at Highland Springs. In accordance with the plan for the centralization of the school system, the board has decided to run a wagon from the Chickahominy neighborhood, or beyond, for a distance of about five miles, to Highland Springs, to carry the school children of the district, taking them home after the school closes. Bids have been asked for this service, and the contract will be let on Wednesday.

Last Thursday night a most spirited meeting of the citizens of the county living in the neighborhood of Ridge Church was held to consider the advisability of establishing a high school for Tuckahoe District. Mr. E. H. Russell and Mr. Jackson Davis were among the speakers, and it is probable that a

Well Known Here.

Lieutenant Harry N. Coates, U. S. A., military secretary at the Jamestown Exposition, is a Virginia boy, who was educated at the Staunton Military Academy and at the Virginia Military Institute, and has been in the army almost ever since, serving in the Spanish War and later against the Filipinos. He is well known in Richmond and throughout the State. Lieutenant Coates is now in the field, and will be there during the exposition.